



City of Bloomington

Utilities Department

Grease Trap Maintenance Procedures

Grease traps require frequent maintenance, from every day to once a week, due to their small size and limited grease holding capacity. Grease Trap Maintenance must be conducted when the unit has accumulated waste, both floatable and settleable, accounting for 25% of its wetted depth, as measured from the static water level to the interior tank bottom. At a minimum, regardless of waste accumulation, grease traps must be maintained every 30 days. Grease trap maintenance is typically performed by maintenance staff or other employees of the establishment. When performed properly and at the appropriate frequency, grease trap maintenance can greatly reduce the discharge of fats, oil, and grease (FOG) into the wastewater collection system.

The necessary maintenance frequency for grease traps depends greatly on the amount of FOG a facility generates, as well as any best management practices (BMPs) employed to reduce the FOG discharged into its sanitary sewer system.

Steps for Proper Grease Trap Maintenance:

1.	Do not use enzymes, acids, caustics, solvents or emulsifying products when cleaning or maintaining grease traps.
2.	Remove lid. If the trap is equipped with removable baffles, remove them.
3.	Make sure the flow restrictor on the inflow pipe is present.
4.	Scoop the accumulated top grease layer out of the trap and deposit in a tight-sealing container for proper disposal.
5.	Bail out water in the trap to facilitate cleaning solids from the bottom. Place water in a tight-sealing container filled with absorbent material for disposal.
6.	Remove all the solids from the bottom of the trap, drain any liquid from the solids and properly discard the material in the trash.
7.	Scrape the sides, the lid, and the baffles with a putty knife to remove the grease, and deposit the grease into the same container used for the grease layer.
8.	Replace baffles and lid.
9.	Return (or fill) water to grease trap
10	Record grease trap cleaning activities on a maintenance log or request a receipt from your grease service company. Keep records on site for 3 years. Make them available whenever requested by inspectors.

If you have any questions contact the Pretreatment Program Inspector at 812-349-3934.